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Environment and sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.11 and Corr.1

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,[1]

Expressing its deepest concern about the widespread and devastating effects of the El Niño Southern Oscillation on most of the regions of the world, especially during the year 1997/1998, which scientists have recognized as the year in which the El Niño Southern Oscillation has had its strongest manifestation on record,

Noting the progress made in the understanding of the El Niño Southern Oscillation, and noting further that a continued increase in the collection and exchange of data and information could assist in the modelling and prediction of the recurrence of this natural phenomenon,

Noting also that an opposite phenomenon to the El Niño Southern Oscillation, known as La Niña, according to scientific predictions, can occur and affect several regions of the world, and that international cooperation could be needed in order to reduce its impact,

Stressing that any credible strategy for the reduction of the natural disaster effects of future El Niño occurrences must be based on effective dialogue and cooperation between the scientific and technological areas of the United Nations system and its operational responsibilities in the fields of disaster management, humanitarian assistance, sustainable

[1] A/53/487.

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development, technical cooperation and capacity-building, including data collection, monitoring and early warning systems, at all levels,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 52/200 and endorses the recommendations and conclusions contained therein;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the cooperation provided by the United Nations system to the efforts of the countries affected to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and for the valuable cooperation given by the international community;

3. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the outcome of the International Conference on Early Warning Systems for the Reduction of Natural Disasters, convened within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at Potsdam, Germany, from 7 to 11 September 1998;

4. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the organization of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, to be held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, in accordance with paragraph 10 of resolution 52/200;

5. *Decides* that the report on the outcome of that Meeting will be considered under appropriate items at the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1999 and at the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[2]

6. *Also decides* to consider the La Niña phenomenon in the context of the implementation of resolution 52/200;

7. *Calls for* the continued and full implementation of resolution 52/200;

8. *Welcomes* the convening, in 1999, of an intergovernmental meeting of experts on the El Niño phenomenon, to be held at Lima, which will have a comprehensive approach, comprising scientific, technical, social and political issues, and a broad participation of intergovernmental experts and policy decision makers;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to submit recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999, on how the United Nations system will deal with natural disaster reduction after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in 1999, taking into account the lessons learned and making early warning a key element for future natural disaster reduction strategies;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.